

10.34, Numerical Methods Applied to Chemical Engineering  
 Professor William H. Green  
**Lecture #5: Introduction to Systems of Nonlinear Equations.**

### III-Conditioning and Condition Numbers

$$\underline{A} \cdot \underline{x}^{\text{true}} = \underline{b}^{\text{true}}$$

↑  
Know exactly  
If measurements perfect

If one can solve exactly,  $\underline{x}^{\text{true}}$  gives the actual flows in a reactor system, for example.

In reality, there are errors in the measurements

$$\underline{b} = (\underline{b}^{\text{true}} + \delta \underline{b}), \text{ so: } \underline{A}(\underline{x}^{\text{true}} + \delta \underline{x}) = (\underline{b}^{\text{true}} + \delta \underline{b})$$

Assume  $\underline{A}$  is non-singular ( $\underline{A}$  has an inverse)

$$\underline{A}\underline{x}^{\text{true}} + \underline{A}\delta \underline{x} = \underline{b}^{\text{true}} + \delta \underline{b} \rightarrow \underline{A}\delta \underline{x} = \delta \underline{b}$$

$$\delta \underline{x} = \underline{A}^{-1}\delta \underline{b}$$

$$\frac{\|\underline{b}^{\text{true}}\|}{\|\underline{A}\|} \leq \|\underline{x}^{\text{true}}\|$$

$$\begin{aligned} \|\delta \underline{x}\| &\leq \|\underline{A}^{-1}\| \cdot \|\delta \underline{b}\| & \text{cond}(\underline{A}) &= \|\underline{A}\| \cdot \|\underline{A}^{-1}\| \\ \frac{\|\delta \underline{x}\|}{\|\underline{x}^{\text{true}}\|} &\leq \|\underline{A}^{-1}\| \cdot \|\delta \underline{b}\| \cdot \frac{\|\underline{A}\|}{\|\underline{b}^{\text{true}}\|} = \text{cond}(\underline{A}) \frac{\|\delta \underline{b}\|}{\|\underline{b}\|} \end{aligned}$$

$$\frac{\|\delta \underline{x}\|}{\|\underline{x}^{\text{true}}\|} \leq \text{cond}(\underline{A}) \frac{\|\delta \underline{b}\|}{\|\underline{b}\|} \approx 10^{-2}, 10^{-3}: \# \text{ of sig figs in } \underline{b}$$

if  $\text{cond}(\underline{A}) = 1$ : is what you expect  
 if  $\text{cond}(\underline{A}) > 10^4$ : no accuracy  
 Need  $\text{cond}(\underline{A})$  to be small to bound error

$\text{cond}(\underline{A}) \geq 1$  Means error is always amplified.

$\text{cond}(c\underline{A}) = \text{cond}(\underline{A})$

$\text{cond}(\underline{A}) = |\lambda|_{\max}/|\lambda|_{\min} \rightarrow \text{cond}(\underline{A}) \rightarrow \infty$ , if  $\lambda_i = 0$

$\lambda$ : eigenvalue

$$\frac{\|\delta \underline{x}\|}{\|\underline{x}\|} \leq \text{cond}(\underline{A}) \left( \frac{\|\delta \underline{b}\|}{\|\underline{b}\|} + \frac{\|\delta \underline{A}\|}{\|\underline{A}\|} + \epsilon_{\text{mach}} \right)$$

$$\sim 10^{-2} \quad \sim 10^{-3}$$

$\epsilon_{\text{mach}}$ : machine stores  $10^{-15}$ ; still have machine error even when you measure everything perfectly.

Lose  $\sim \log_{10}(\text{cond}(\underline{A}))$  significant figures in  $\underline{x}$ .

$\underline{A}\underline{x}^{\text{soln}} = \underline{b}$   
 just because  $\underline{x}$  gives right solution, does not mean you have the true  $\underline{x}$

What is my tolerance for error?

Have to know this in order to have useful expectations.

You have to know ahead of time which numbers you care about. If  $\underline{A}$  is singular, model is probably wrong. If  $\underline{A}$  is not singular and  $\text{cond}(\underline{A})$  is bad, maybe the scaling is off (different units, for example). Good scaling means that all numbers are within  $10^2$  of one another. If you know the uncertainties in  $\underline{A}$ , scale so the uncertainties are all similar.

$\text{cond}(\underline{\mathbf{A}})$  is the function of physical scenario AND how you scale the equations.

This happens because:  $x + y = z$  when you add numbers  
 5 sigs 5 sigs it depends on order of magnitude

3.1248                    3.1248  
2.4761 while  $2.4761 \cdot 10^{-11}$  ← these are negligible  
 5 sig figs                loss of sig figs

Try to scale the equations by choosing appropriate units

$$\underbrace{\text{cond}(\underline{\mathbf{A}}) \sim 4/\varepsilon^2}_{\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1+\varepsilon \\ 1-\varepsilon & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1+(1+\varepsilon)\varepsilon \\ \varepsilon \end{pmatrix}} \quad \mathbf{x} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ \varepsilon \end{pmatrix}$$

### Gaussian Elimination on an Augmented Matrix

$$\left( \begin{array}{cc|c} 1 & 1+\varepsilon & 1+\varepsilon+\varepsilon^2 \\ 1-\varepsilon & 1 & 1 \end{array} \right) \Rightarrow \left( \begin{array}{cc|c} 1 & 1+\varepsilon & 1+\varepsilon+\varepsilon^2 \\ 0 & \varepsilon^2 & 1-(1+\varepsilon+\varepsilon^2)(1-\varepsilon) \end{array} \right)$$

↓  
 $1-(1-\varepsilon^3) \approx 0 \approx \text{junk, if computer cannot add 1 and } \varepsilon^3 \text{ without loss of accuracy}$

$\underline{x}_2 = \text{junk}/\varepsilon^2 \approx 0$  [incorrect]

$$\underline{x}^{\text{soln}} \sim \begin{pmatrix} 1+\varepsilon+\varepsilon^2 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{off by order of } \varepsilon \text{ in small number}$$

If you get warning in MATLAB that  $\text{cond}(\underline{\mathbf{A}})$  is too high, you should be aware that your solution may be complete nonsense

$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{pmatrix} \bullet & \bullet & \bullet & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ \bullet & \bullet & \bullet & \bullet & 0 & 0 \\ \bullet & \bullet & \bullet & \bullet & \bullet & 0 \\ 0 & \bullet & \bullet & \bullet & \bullet & \bullet \\ 0 & 0 & \bullet & \bullet & \bullet & \bullet \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \bullet & \bullet & \bullet \end{pmatrix}$$

Banded matrix occurs when neighboring numbers affect each other but have little effect on variable far away (i.e. finite difference ODE problems)

A banded solver ignores the zeros:  $O(Nm^2)$  not  $O(N^3)$  where "m" is the band width  
 \* saves memory and time

### SPARSE

$\underline{\mathbf{A}} = \text{spalloc}(M, N, N_{\text{nonzero}})$   
 MxN matrix  
 memory space for up to N nonzero entries

'help sparfun' for  
 more info on  
 sparse matrices

A(47, 22)

$$\begin{pmatrix} & 0 & 0 \\ & 0 & \\ & & 0 \\ 0 & & \\ & 0 & \\ & 0 & \end{pmatrix}$$

$x$   
 $x \bullet x$   
 $x$

Fill-in Problem – Avoid this  
and maintain symmetrical  
structure to use SPARSE

In Gauss elimination, the spaces with zeros get filled in and the problem becomes difficult and requires a lot of bandwidth.

## Non-Linear Systems

$$\begin{aligned} F(x) &= 0 \\ f_1(x, y) &= 0 \\ f_2(x, y) &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

We want  $(x, y)$  that  
is true for  $f_1$  and  $f_2$

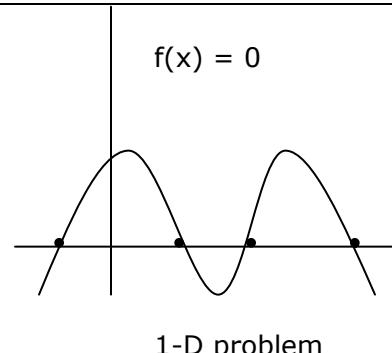
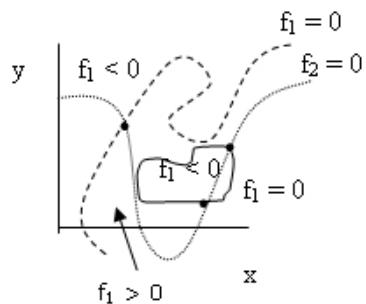


Figure 1. 2-Dimensional problem.

How many solutions?  
Impossible to tell.

In our problems (i.e. 20-dimensional), graphical interpretation impossible